

2-1-1993

Labor Market Digest, February 1993

Maine Bureau of Employment Security

Maine Division of Manpower Research

Maine Labor Market Research

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The Labor Market Information Newsletter on Maine Economic Activity

Maine's Job Engine Has Been Fueled by Small Establishments Lately

"Small and mid-sized companies are America's secret economic weapon...", said Business Week magazine. "These incubators of growth created 80% of the jobs in the 1980s." What happened in Maine during the 1980s? How did the economic slowdown that began in 1989 affect establishments in Maine?

1983-1989

Between 1983 and 1989 private employment¹ in Maine rose at an unprecedented rate. Establishments employing fewer than 250 workers recorded a net employment gain of 100,472, accounting for 92 percent of the growth in total private employment. Employment in establishments employing 250 or more workers increased by 8,249. The number of establishments employing fewer than 250 people registered a net increase of 3,993 between 1983 and 1989, compared to a net loss of 16 establishments employing 250 or more people.

1989-1992

Private employment peaked in 1989 and then declined through 1992. The number of establishments actually increased by 1,038 during this time, due primarily to a net gain of 1,566 establishments employing less than five people. The number of establishments with 5 to 9 employees increased slightly by 14. The number of establishments employing 10 or more people declined by 542.

Employment dropped by 38,085 between 1989 and 1992 due to a combination of firm shutdowns and layoffs. Establishments employing fewer than 10 people accounted for a net employment gain of 1,092 between 1989 and 1992, with almost all of the increase coming from establishments employing fewer than five people. However, these gains were overwhelmed by a loss of 39,177 workers among establishments employing 10 or more.

1983-1992

After the rollercoaster ride of the last 10 years, where did Maine end up in 1992? There were 70,636 more private jobs in 1992 than there were in 1983. Employment in establishments with less than 250 employees rose by 74,269, while there were 3,633 fewer jobs in establishments employing 250 or more. There was a net increase of 5,052 establishments employing fewer than 250 people, compared to a net loss of 37 establishments employing 250 or more people.

Establishments employing fewer than 250 people accounted for 76 percent of private employment in 1992, up from 69 percent in 1983.

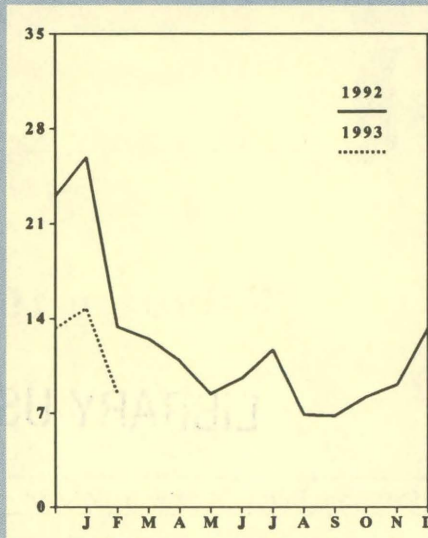
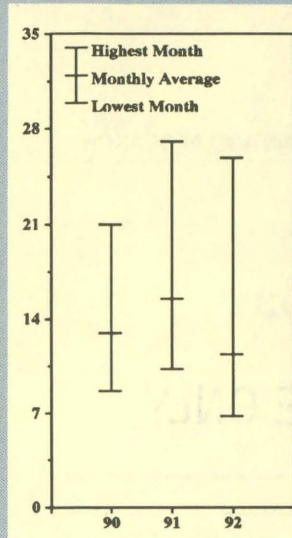
¹This article contains March 1983, 1989, and 1992 employment and establishment size data from reports of employers subject to the Maine Employment Security Law.

by Dana Evans
State Labor Economist

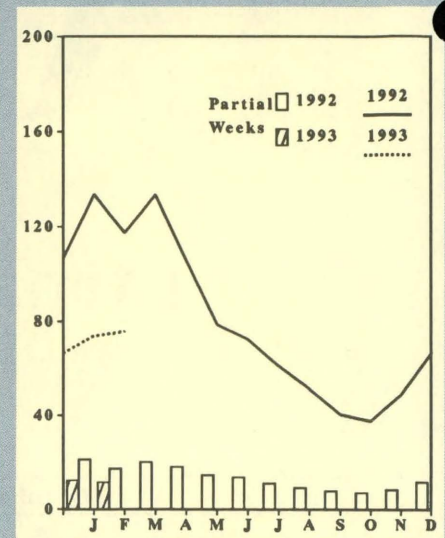
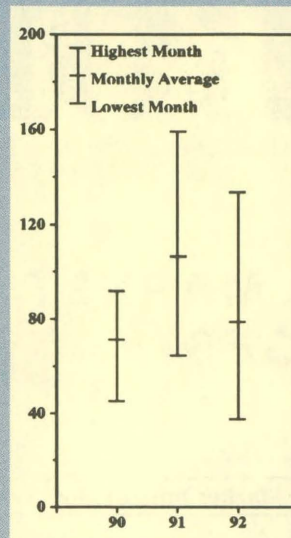
(See related table on page 2)



UI Initial Claims in Thousands



UI Intrastate Weeks Claimed in Thousands



Employers and Employees by Size of Establishment Maine, March 1983, 1989, 1992^{1/}

Establishment Size	Number of Establishments			Number of Employees		
	1983	1989	1992	1983	1989	1992
0-9	24,191	25,956	27,536	53,611	73,966	75,058
10-19	2,683	3,898	3,767	34,722	52,465	50,104
20-49	1,766	2,409	2,221	50,051	72,554	66,165
50-99	587	831	690	38,440	57,038	47,515
100-249	297	423	362	41,652	62,925	53,903
250-499	115	98	83	31,522	32,918	28,956
500-999	46	46	40	30,531	31,207	27,250
1000 +	18	19	19	34,656	40,833	36,870
Total	29,703	33,680	34,718	315,185	423,906	385,821

^{1/} March 1983, 1989, and 1992 data for establishments subject to the Maine Employment Security Law.



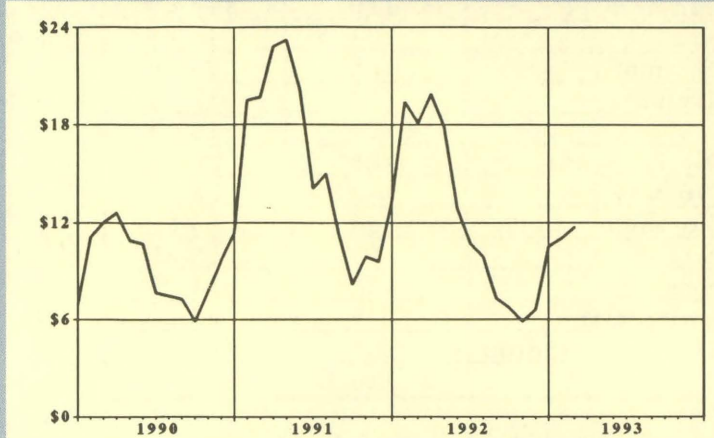
Selected Employment Security Activities



Unemployment Insurance Benefit Payments

In Millions

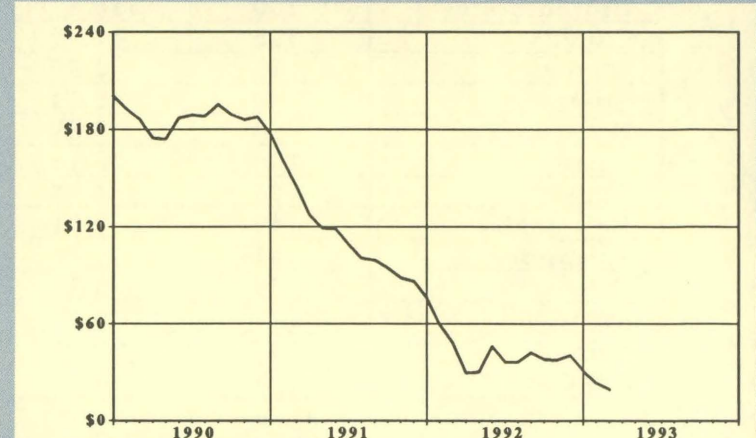
(Total includes Maine's Portion of Extended Benefits)



Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance

In Millions

(End of Month)



Earnings and Workweek of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS			ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	1990	1991	1992
STATEWIDE												
Manufacturing.....	\$462.00	\$460.40	\$454.00	40.0	40.0	40.0	\$11.55	\$11.51	\$11.35	\$10.58	\$11.08	\$11.38
Durable Goods.....	450.38	452.25	451.07	39.3	40.2	40.6	11.46	11.25	11.11	10.20	10.61	11.14
Lumber and Wood Products.....	392.37	380.70	376.69	41.0	40.5	40.9	9.57	9.40	9.21	9.10	8.97	9.25
Primary and Fabricated Metals.....	459.98	473.54	443.89	43.6	44.8	42.6	10.55	10.57	10.42	9.98	10.18	10.45
Industrial Machinery and Equipment.....	530.52	528.03	523.68	40.1	40.4	41.3	13.23	13.07	12.68	11.63	12.43	12.82
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment.....	389.16	393.90	390.22	37.6	39.0	39.9	10.35	10.10	9.78	9.69	9.91	10.02
Transportation Equipment.....	559.95	571.13	567.01	38.3	39.8	40.1	14.62	14.35	14.14	11.68	12.55	14.09
Other Durable Goods.....	325.58	324.86	337.64	36.5	38.4	40.1	8.92	8.46	8.42	8.11	8.57	8.86
Nondurable Goods.....	470.61	468.03	456.23	40.5	39.9	39.5	11.62	11.73	11.55	10.93	11.48	11.57
Food and Kindred Products.....	334.37	348.19	287.35	35.8	37.4	31.2	9.34	9.31	9.21	8.56	8.76	9.15
Textile Mill Products.....	374.33	387.03	367.64	40.6	40.4	42.6	9.22	9.53	8.63	8.82	8.82	9.03
Apparel and Other Textile Products.....	267.81	253.23	296.06	32.7	30.4	40.5	8.19	8.33	7.31	7.38	7.28	7.65
Paper and Allied Products.....	718.91	705.43	684.48	45.3	44.2	42.7	15.87	15.96	16.03	15.16	16.06	16.25
Leather and Leather Products.....	308.05	304.67	296.80	38.7	37.8	37.1	7.96	8.06	8.00	7.44	7.82	7.92
Other Nondurable Goods.....	402.19	395.52	382.69	39.2	38.4	38.5	10.26	10.30	9.94	9.62	9.85	10.07
PORTLAND MSA												
Manufacturing.....	401.28	401.05	400.02	38.0	38.6	38.5	10.56	10.39	10.39	10.63	10.45	10.55
LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA												
Manufacturing.....	373.07	379.33	391.64	38.5	38.2	40.5	9.69	9.93	9.67	9.26	9.33	9.53

Female Labor Force in Maine in Thousands

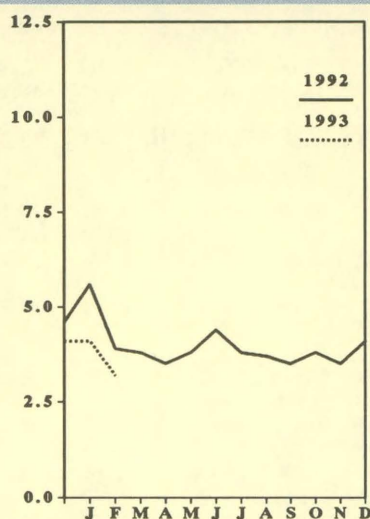
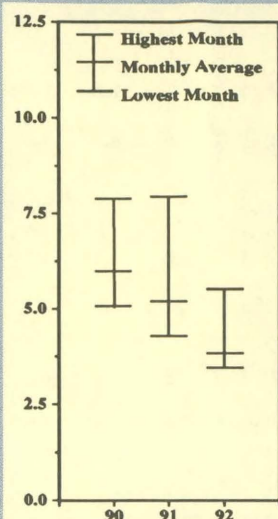
ITEM ^{1/}	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Labor Force	310.0	295.7	290.2
Unemployment (Percent)	25.5	22.6	26.7
Resident Employed	284.5	273.1	263.6

U.S. Consumer Price Index

BASE PERIOD (1982-1984 = 100) All Items (CPI-U)	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	Last Dec.
	143.1	142.6	138.6	141.9
Percent Change for Past Month			+0.4%	
Percent Change from Last December			+0.8%	
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago			+3.2%	

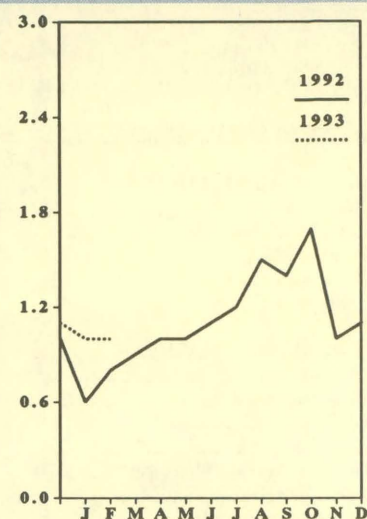
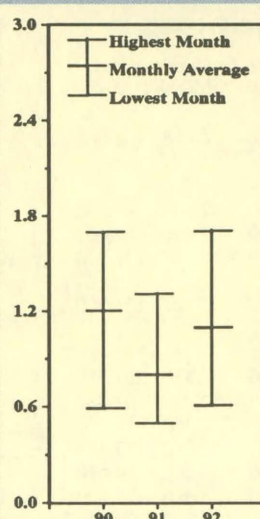
^{1/} Current figures preliminary;

New Applications For Work in Thousands



Nonfarm Placements in Thousands

(Excludes Placements of Less than Three Days Duration)



Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work (in Thousands)

ITEM	STATEWIDE			PORTLAND MSA			LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA		
	THIS MONTH	LAST MONTH	YEAR AGO	THIS MONTH	LAST MONTH	YEAR AGO	THIS MONTH	LAST MONTH	YEAR AGO
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment 1/.....	501.5	502.0	489.9	121.1	121.4	119.7	36.9	36.5	36.4
Goods Producing.....	110.3	112.1	108.1	17.5	17.8	18.2	9.0	9.0	8.9
Construction and Mining.....	19.0	19.9	16.5	4.7	4.7	4.0	1.1	1.2	1.1
Building Construction.....	4.7	4.9	4.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Special Trade Contractors.....	10.7	11.3	9.0	3.2	3.2	2.8	n/a	n/a	n/a
Manufacturing.....	91.3	92.2	91.6	12.8	13.1	14.2	7.9	7.8	7.8
Durable Goods.....	41.0	41.4	41.7	5.6	5.9	6.8	2.2	2.3	2.2
Lumber and Wood Products.....	10.8	11.1	10.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Primary and Fabricated Metals.....	3.2	3.2	3.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Industrial Machinery and Equipment.....	3.6	3.6	3.9	1.0	1.0	1.4	n/a	n/a	n/a
Electronic and other Elect. Equip.....	6.7	6.8	7.1	2.2	2.2	2.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
Transportation Equipment.....	12.7	12.7	13.3	(d)	(d)	(d)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other Durable Goods 2/.....	4.0	4.0	3.7	2.4	2.7	2.9	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nondurable Goods.....	50.3	50.8	49.9	7.2	7.2	7.4	5.7	5.5	5.6
Food and Kindred Products.....	6.4	6.7	6.4	1.9	1.9	1.9	n/a	n/a	n/a
Textile Mill Products.....	5.4	5.2	5.4	(d)	(d)	(d)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Apparel and Other Textile Products.....	2.9	2.9	2.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Paper and Allied Products.....	16.3	16.5	16.6	(d)	(d)	(d)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Printing and Publishing.....	5.2	5.3	5.2	1.5	1.5	1.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rubber and Misc. Plastic Products.....	3.0	3.0	2.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Leather and Leather Products.....	9.8	9.9	9.4	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.5	1.4	1.5
Footwear (except Rubber).....	8.0	8.0	7.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other Nondurable Goods 3/.....	1.3	1.3	1.2	2.7	2.7	3.0	4.2	4.1	4.1
Service Producing.....	391.2	389.9	381.8	103.6	103.6	101.5	27.9	27.5	27.5
Transportation and Public Utilities.....	20.8	21.1	20.7	5.6	5.7	6.0	1.3	1.2	1.4
Wholesale Trade.....	22.1	22.1	22.7	8.3	8.3	8.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Retail Trade.....	100.3	102.1	93.7	28.7	28.8	25.9	7.7	7.8	7.5
Food Stores.....	18.1	18.3	17.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Eating and Drinking Places.....	29.4	29.8	26.8	7.0	7.2	6.9	n/a	n/a	n/a
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate.....	23.7	23.8	24.0	11.5	11.6	11.9	2.0	2.0	1.9
Banking.....	8.7	8.7	9.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Insurance Carriers, Brokers and Agents.....	10.7	10.7	10.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Services.....	126.2	125.8	122.4	32.7	33.0	32.5	10.7	10.4	10.6
Hotels and Other Lodging Places.....	6.4	6.2	6.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Business Services.....	12.7	13.0	12.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Health Services.....	48.0	47.9	46.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Federal Government.....	16.1	16.2	17.7	2.1	2.2	2.1	0.3	0.3	0.3
State and Local Government.....	82.0	78.8	80.6	14.7	14.0	14.3	4.1	4.0	4.0
Involved in Labor-Management Disputes.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

1/ Employment figures relate to full- and part-time wage and salary workers in pay periods including the 12th of the month. Domestic workers in private households, proprietors, self-employed, and unpaid family workers are excluded. 2/ Includes Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes: Statewide - 25, 32, 38, 39; Portland - 24, 25, 32, 33, 34, 37, 38, 39. 3/ Includes SIC codes: Statewide - 28, 29; Portland - 20, 22, 23, 26, 30; Lewiston - 20, 22, 23, 26, 27. 4/ Regular teachers are included in summer months whether or not specifically paid in those months. n/a - data not available in sufficient detail for publication. * Less than 50. (d) Nondisclosure item. Source: Nonfarm wage and salary employment by place of work and earnings, and workweek of production workers in manufacturing industries are developed by the Maine Bureau of Employment Security in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment

AREA 1/	LABOR FORCE 2/			RESIDENT EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT Number			UNEMPLOYMENT Percent of Labor Force		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
MAINE-STATEWIDE(000).....	644.6	649.8	639.2	582.8	590.1	580.1	61.8	59.7	59.1	9.6	9.2	9.2
MAJOR LABOR MARKET												
Bangor MSA.....	47,700	47,400	46,600	44,000	44,000	43,100	3,700	3,400	3,400	7.7	7.1	7.4
Lewiston-Auburn MSA.....	44,400	44,400	44,400	39,300	39,500	39,100	5,100	4,900	5,300	11.4	11.0	11.9
Portland MSA.....	135,800	138,200	133,900	127,600	130,200	125,200	8,200	8,100	8,700	6.0	5.8	6.5
Portsmouth-Dover- Rochester MSA.....	n/a	n/a	134,900	n/a	n/a	126,400	n/a	n/a	8,500	n/a	n/a	6.3
OTHER LABOR MARKETS												
Augusta.....	37,220	37,530	37,240	34,070	34,540	34,270	3,150	2,990	2,970	8.5	8.0	8.0
Bath-Brunswick.....	31,880	32,050	31,880	29,620	29,860	29,690	2,270	2,190	2,190	7.1	6.8	6.9
Belfast.....	12,430	12,560	12,570	10,450	10,680	10,630	1,980	1,880	1,940	15.9	14.9	15.4
Biddeford.....	26,940	27,030	27,490	23,990	24,120	24,650	2,950	2,910	2,840	10.9	10.8	10.3
Boothbay Harbor-Wiscasset.....	15,470	15,660	14,910	14,150	14,300	13,730	1,330	1,360	1,190	8.6	8.7	8.0
Calais-Eastport.....	16,100	15,910	15,770	13,460	13,630	13,750	2,640	2,270	2,030	16.4	14.3	12.9
Caribou-Presque Isle.....	22,180	22,290	22,530	19,140	19,290	19,710	3,040	3,000	2,820	13.7	13.4	12.5
Central Penobscot.....	3,540	3,600	3,150	3,170	3,230	2,740	370	370	410	10.5	10.4	13.0
Dover-Foxcroft.....	7,400	7,520	7,160	6,550	6,720	6,500	840	800	660	11.4	10.7	9.3
Ellsworth.....	24,990	25,350	25,590	21,780	22,190	22,570	3,210	3,150	3,020	12.8	12.4	11.8
Farmington.....	14,540	14,550	14,290	13,270	13,290	13,080	1,270	1,260	1,210	8.7	8.7	8.4
Fort Kent-Allagash.....	6,150	6,140	6,160	5,450	5,430	5,520	700	710	640	11.3	11.6	10.4
Greenville.....	1,350	1,370	1,400	1,200	1,220	1,250	150	150	160	11.0	10.7	11.0
Houlton.....	6,970	7,080	6,990	6,400	6,510	6,460	570	570	530	8.2	8.0	7.6
Kittery-York 3/.....	30,550	30,750	28,980	28,700	28,780	27,200	1,850	1,960	1,780	6.1	6.4	6.2
Lincoln-Howland.....	5,580	5,630	5,800	4,970	5,070	5,130	610	560	670	11.0	10.0	11.5
Livemore Falls.....	5,910	6,050	6,210	5,220	5,350	5,560	690	690	650	11.7	11.5	10.5
Madawaska-Van Buren.....	4,360	4,490	4,200	3,730	3,880	3,710	630	610	490	14.4	13.6	11.6
Millinocket-East Millinocket.....	4,240	4,150	4,100	3,790	3,720	3,630	450	430	480	10.5	10.3	11.6
Norway-Paris.....	12,790	12,970	12,090	10,990	11,210	10,540	1,800	1,760	1,550	14.1	13.6	12.8
Patten-Island Falls.....	2,700	2,810	2,710	2,420	2,480	2,390	280	340	320	10.4	12.0	11.7
Rockland.....	20,760	20,660	20,070	18,380	18,910	18,250	2,380	1,750	1,820	11.5	8.5	9.1
Rumford.....	9,990	10,160	9,480	8,900	9,050	8,540	1,090	1,110	940	10.9	10.9	10.0
Sanford.....	17,250	17,180	16,960	15,070	15,150	14,940	2,180	2,030	2,030	12.6	11.8	11.9
Sebago Lakes Region.....	12,590	12,790	13,090	11,450	11,620	11,870	1,130	1,170	1,220	9.0	9.2	9.3
Skowhegan.....	25,420	25,660	24,520	22,230	22,530	21,460	3,190	3,130	3,060	12.5	12.2	12.5
Southwest Penobscot.....	11,430	11,270	11,410	9,740	9,530	9,740	1,690	1,730	1,670	14.8	15.4	14.6
Waterville.....	26,030	26,600	27,620	23,570	24,140	25,190	2,470	2,450	2,430	9.5	9.2	8.8
OTHER												
NEW ENGLAND STATES (000)												
Connecticut.....	n/a	n/a	1,798.1	n/a	n/a	1,651.1	n/a	n/a	147.0	n/a	n/a	8.2
Massachusetts.....	3,131.0	3,151.0	3,116.0	2,870.0	2,884.0	2,851.0	261.0	267.0	264.0	8.3	8.5	8.5
New Hampshire.....	n/a	n/a	630.6	n/a	n/a	584.2	n/a	n/a	46.5	n/a	n/a	7.4
Rhode Island.....	n/a	n/a	511.8	n/a	n/a	469.3	n/a	n/a	42.5	n/a	n/a	8.3
Vermont.....	324.9	321.1	306.2	301.3	298.5	284.7	23.7	22.6	21.6	7.3	7.0	7.0
NEW ENGLAND STATES (000)----												
	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UNITED STATES (000)-----												
	126,505	126,034	125,386	116,735	116,123	115,224	9,770	9,911	10,161	7.7	7.9	8.1

Footnotes

- 1/ Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for all areas are by place of residence and are not seasonally adjusted. Estimates made independently for each labor market area have been benchmarked to and extrapolated from the Current Population Survey estimates for the state. All data exclude members of the Armed Forces. Data are rounded for publishing purposes. Employment and unemployment may not add to labor force due to rounding. MSA - Metropolitan Statistical Area. n/a indicates that the information was not available at the time of printing.
- 2/ Current figures preliminary. Estimates for 1992 have not been benchmarked and are not strictly comparable with January 1993 estimates. Also, January 1993 estimates are subject to revision later in 1993.
- 3/ Kittery-York is the eight-town Maine portion of the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.

Source: These data are developed by the Maine Bureau of Employment Security in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Mid-Month Insured Unemployment

ITEM	STATEWIDE			PORTLAND MSA			LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Number of continued-week claimants*	16,800	17,410	26,553	2,332	2,352	3,962	1,347	1,348	2,430

Continued-week claimants are less partials for week including the 12th of the month.

Hourly Compensation Costs for Production Workers In Manufacturing, In Indexes (U.S. = 100) and U.S. Dollars, 25 Countries or Areas, 1992

Country or Area	Index U.S. = 100	U.S. Dollars	Country or Areas	Index U.S. = 100	U.S. Dollars
United States	100	\$16.17	Finland	116	\$18.69
Canada	105	17.02	France	104	16.88
Mexico	15	2.35	Germany	160	25.94
Australia	80	12.94	Ireland	82	13.32
Hong Kong	24	3.89	Italy	120	19.41
Japan	100	16.16	Netherlands	128	20.72
Korea	30	4.93	Norway	143	23.20
New Zealand	49	7.91	Portugal	31	5.01
Singapore	31	5.00	Spain	83	13.39
Taiwan	32	5.19	Sweden	150	24.23
Austria	122	19.65	Switzerland	144	23.26
Belgium	136	22.01	United Kingdom	91	14.69
Denmark	124	20.02			

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Note: Total compensation includes pay for time worked, pay for time not worked and other direct pay, and employer expenditures for legally required insurance programs and contractual and private benefit plans. Compensation is converted to U.S. dollars at commercial market currency exchange rates, which are appropriate for comparing employer labor costs. These labor cost comparisons do not indicate relative living standards of workers or the purchasing power of their incomes. Prices of goods and services vary greatly among countries, and market exchange rates do not reliably indicate relative differences in prices. It also should be noted that the figures are averages for all manufacturing industries and are not necessarily representative of all component industries.

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The Maine Bureau of Employment Security is affiliated with the U.S. Employment and Training Administration and is a Federal-State Statistical Program Cooperative Representative of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Published under Appropriation No. 013-12A-2627-602



Division of Economic Analysis and Research



Labor Market Digest
February 1993

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
LAB 449